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FTA news

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA—CIO

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Win $600,000 In Wage Increases At R. J. Reynolds

Winston-Salem, N. C.—Wage increases of about $600,000 per year were won by the workers of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company ("Camel" cigarettes and smoking tobacco) in their second contract signed on May 28 by the Company and Local 22.

The increases, which are being submitted to the War Labor Board for approval, include an increase in the minimum wage to 55c per hour (automatically raised to 58c after 6 months); a 4c night shift differential; as well as adjustments in the different wage classifications covering some 8,000 workers.

Among the outstanding gains in the new contract are improved seniority and job security for the 12,000 workers in the Reynolds plants. A four-step grievance procedure has been agreed upon, and the Union won the right to send its representatives into the plants to investigate grievances. Shop stewards will have top seniority and will be permitted to wear their Union insignia.

Other contract provisions include checkoff of Union dues and initiation; time and a half for all work over 8 hours in one day, and over 40 hours in one week; and one and two week vacations. Seasonal employees will receive one-half week's vacation pay after 1,000 hours of work, and one week's vacation after the 1,000 hours worked in the second year's service. Cumulative seniority is awarded to veterans who re-apply for work within 90 days after discharge from the service.

A decided improvement over the first agreement signed last year, the new contract was approved by the entire membership of FTA Local 22 before it was signed by the Union.

NO DISPUTE

"I am happy that the Company and the Union were able to agree on all issues without having to make a dispute before the War Labor Board," FTA President Henderson, who participated in the negotiations, said.

Frank Green, Director of Local 22, hailed the agreement as paving the way toward better relations between the Company and the Union. "The 55c minimum secured in the agreement, contrasted to the 40c minimum that existed in the plants before our first contract, goes a long way in eliminating substandard wages and will have a great effect on the general welfare of the community," Green stated.

Members of the Negotiating Committee of Local 22 were: Frank Green, Clark Shepperd, Theodosia Simpson, Evan Blakely, Robert Black, Willie Grier, S. B. Templeton, John Miller, Velma Hopkins, James Sprinkle, Clarence Conrad, Corine Pickenpack, Martha Moses, Sidney Royal, Rev. Walter Young and Rev. Frank O'Neal.

FTA'S EXECUTIVE BOARD is shown here in session on June 14, at the Sherman Hotel in Chicago. Sitting around the table (from far left, reading clockwise) are: International Vice-President Dixie Tiller, IVP Armando Valdes, IVP Lewis Bentzley, IVP Armando Ramirez, Int. Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane, Int. President Donald Henderson, Lillian Kaunos (Secy. to Henderson), IVP Luisa Moreno, IVP Robbie Mae Riddick, and IVP John Mack Dyson. Not present at this opening session are IVP Owen H. Whitfeld and Louis F. Jedlicka, former Alternate Vice-President, who was appointed by the Board to replace IVP Otis Nation now on leave with the Armed Forces. Carrying out the slogan on the banner in the picture, "Illinois FTA CIO Locals Welcome International Executive Board," Local 194 of Chicago ran a reception for the Board members on Saturday night, June 16, at which many members and officers of FTA locals in the area participated.

Flash
Elections Won In Three Plants

FTA hit its stride in the Charlotte, N. C., organizing drive recently by winning an NLRB election, 55 to 10, at the Buckeye Cotton Oil Co. The bargaining unit covers drivers, production and maintenance workers, a total of 80 employees.

"I am glad to be in FTA," said Clarence Hill, active organizer in the plant. "There is much to learn and do, and you'll find me a willing student and a hard worker for the Union."

Organizing Chairman Will N. Roseboro expressed his joy by saying: "This is the best thing I have ever been in . . . we should have had the Union long ago." Paul Alexander was another member who did a fine job in getting the organizing work done.

All the Union members at the Buckeye plant pledged to make it 100% organized so that they can win a good contract from the Company, according to Int. Rep. William DeBerry.

Several other elections were won by FTA recently.

MENOMIE SUGAR

The workers at the Menomonie Sugar Co. in Green Bay, Wis., chose FTA by a vote of 15 to 5. The plant is engaged in sugar refining, and its employees are represented by Local 21.

PACKING SHED

The Citrus Workers Organizing Committee reports a victory of 23 for FTA to 11 for no union at the Woodlake Heights Packing Corp. in Woodlake, Calif.

Executive Board Backs CIO Wage-Hike Program

Chicago, Ill.—A national wage program to protect workers and returning servicemen during the period of reconversion was called for by the International Executive Board meeting here June 14 to 18. The Board went on record in full support of the wage program recently sent to War Mobilization Director Vinson by the CIO executive officers and vice-presidents.

Chief points in the CIO's proposals to the government are:

- **Passage by Congress now of emergency unemployment compensation requested by President Truman, providing federal supplementary unemployment compensation payments to war workers of a minimum of $25 a week for 26 weeks, and also compensation for federal, merchant marine and other employees not now covered by the law.**
- **President Truman should immediately revise the national wage policy, allowing the WLB to make adjustments that are necessary to meet the rising cost of living and to prevent further rises in prices.**
- **The War Production Board, consistent with maximum war production, should take all necessary steps to speed reconversion.**
- **Employers should bargain with unions to establish the security of an annual wage.**

FTA's Executive Board, in addition, proposed that the CIO be advised of the urgent necessity for inclusion in this wage program of special demands for agricultural workers. Specifically, this means the demand to include all workers under coverage of the National Labor Relations Act, Wage and Hour Act, War Labor Board and Social Security Act.

In line with these demands, the Board recommended that FTA launch a nation-wide campaign to secure an agricultural workers' Bill of Rights.

COMMUNITY DRIVE

It was also decided to recommend to CIO President Murray that the CIO's wage program be campaigned in local communities.

Present at the Board meeting were President Donald Henderson, Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane, and International Vice-Presidents Lewis C. Bentzley, John Mack Dyson, Luisa Moreno, Armando Ramirez, Robbie Mae Riddick, Dixie Tiller and Armando Valdes. Int. Vice-Pres. Owen H. Whitfield was unable to attend.

Int. Vice-Pres. Otis Nation, who is now on leave with the Armed Forces, was replaced on the Board by Alternate Vice-Pres. Louis F. Jedlicka, Business Agent of Quaker Oats Local 110 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

A major problem dealt with by the Board was the matter of closing the gap between the number of workers in the Union and the number of workers employed in plants under contract who are not yet members of the Union. All Locals which do not have 100% organization of their workers were urged by the Board to pay particular attention to this problem in the immediate future.

In the organization of new plants, the Board discussed plans for organizing in citrus, and in the Indiana-Illinois, Nebraska-Missouri-Iowa and New York State areas.

Full support of the Executive Board was given to the fight for a permanent FEPC, for the Russian War Relief food drive and for Philippine War Relief.

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FTA Challenges AFL Jim Crow

Washington, D. C.—The AFL asked the NLRB on June 21 not to punish it for tolerating one Jim Crow local in the South, since Jim Crow unionism is an accepted practice of the AFL and exists in many places.

This devious argument was presented by George Googe, Southern Director of Organization for the AFL, at a National Labor Relations Board hearing on charges of discrimination by the AFL against Negro workers in the Larus and Brother tobacco manufacturing plant in Richmond, Virginia. The charges were made by FTA. (The Larus stemmery is under contract with FTA Local 45; and Local 45 formerly was bargaining agent for the Negro workers in the Larus manufacturing plant, where the AFL is now.)

The AFL tobacco union was charged by FTA with causing discrimination as a result of segregation of Negro workers following certification of the AFL at the Larus manufacturing plant in March, 1944. The AFL set up separate locals for the white and Negro workers and later signed a contract with the Company. The Negro local did not, however, sign the contract, and, as a result, they were not recognized by the Company as a party to the agreement.

TRIAL EXAMINER

After preliminary hearings on the case last February, NLRB Trial Examiner Frank Bloom recommended that AFL certification in the Larus plant be removed unless the Negro workers be notified that they are eligible for membership in the white local and the Negro local's charter be cancelled by the AFL.

At the full Board hearing, George Googe contended that the International Union was the actual bargaining agent and that the two local unions in Larus & Bro. Co. were simply acting for it. He asked the NLRB to drop the local union from the certification so as to permit the International to be the bargaining agent, or to set a new election. He said the AFL had "adequately represented all of the employees, union, non-union and CIO."

Atty. Sam Rosenwein for FTA contended that discrimination by segregation was being practiced by the AFL affiliate and that the setting up of the Negro local violated the democratic process.

STOP DISCRIMINATION

Judge William H. Hastie, appearing for the National Lawyers Guild, suggested that under the operation of the union at Richmond either the white local was the bargaining unit and thus not representing a large number of the Larus workers, or there were two units and a problem that a single certification could not meet. He asked the NLRB to make a ruling broad enough so as to cover all future cases of discrimination and "say that it will not tolerate it from any union."

Atty. R. Lawrence Siegal appeared for the American Civil Liberties Union, and said the NLRB should "stop allowing discriminatory practices to establish beachheads." He joined the union and Hastie in asking the NLRB to revoke certification of the AFL union.

DEFENDS JIM CROW

Googe, speaking in rebuttal, said the Board should not make one policy for one union and one for another. He said "Jim Crow locals exist elsewhere," and said he had been dealing with labor unions in the south for twenty years and "if you submerge a minority group in a white local they will not get representation because they are a minority. By separating the locals, they will get adequate representation, their own officers and treasuries. They could even send some money to the NAACP."

DOUBTS CHANGE

Asked by Board Chairman Harry A. Mills whether the union would allow the Negro workers to join the white local, Googe replied: "Certainly the International would have no objection. But frankly, the local union has the right to decide by majority vote whether or not to let them in, and I seriously doubt that they would do it." This statement was in direct contradiction to the testimony given by the AFL before the trial examiner, when they claimed that the Jim Crow local was voluntarily created by the colored workers.

A decision in the case is expected by June 30, when Chairman Millis retires from the NLRB.

60 million jobs=
140 million customers
security for all of us
Write your Congressman to vote for the Full Employment Bill!

Tell It To Congress

NEARLY all the gains that labor has made during the Roosevelt Administration are at stake in one or another of the following measures up for consideration now. An era of union-busting and depression faces us if we don't take immediate action.

Federal Industrial Relations Bill (S. 1171)

This bill (also known as the Ball-Burton-Hatch Bill) is out to destroy the Wagner Act, outlaws closed shops, etc. (See "From Washington" column.)

ACTION: Wire your Senators to oppose this and any attempts to repeal the Wagner Act and other labor legislation.

Permanent FEPC (S. 101 and H.R. 2232)

These bills make FEPC a permanent agency with teeth. Signatures needed immediately on Discharge Petition in House.

ACTION: Write your Representative to sign Discharge Petition immediately and to inform you of his action.

UNCIO Charter

Charter for the United Nations organization will be up in Senate for ratification in early July. Must be ratified over isolationist opposition if we are to win the first battle for world security.

ACTION: Write your Senators. Get every local member to write: "Ratify the UNCIO Charter."

Lea Rider to WLB Appropriations

Would cut out 1½ million food processing workers from WLB jurisdiction. Passed the House. Defeated in Senate Appropriation Committee.

ACTION: Wire your Representative to oppose and to put the heat on House Conferees to oppose.

FEPC Appropriation

Senate Appropriations Committee voted funds for wartime FEPC after it was cut out by the House. Filibuster in Senate is threatened.

ACTION: Wire Senators and Representatives to vote funds for present agency.

NLRB Funds

$379,000 of $400,000 restored by Senate Committee.

ACTION: Wire Representatives to keep this in.

FROM WASHINGTON

An Anti-Labor Drive Is On

By ELIZABETH SASULY, Legislative Director

ABOUT a month ago FTA predicted that the Smith Committee's attack on our drive to organize the open shop citrus industry and the attempt to cut food processing workers out of WLB and NLRB protection were the opening guns in a big-time union-busting campaign. (See story on Page 3.) We were more than right.

Last week, Senators Ball (R., Minn.), Burton (R., Ohio) and Hatch (D., N. M.) introduced a proposed "Federal Industrial Relations Act" in the Senate (S. 1171). The effect of this bill, written clearly through 53 pages composed by corporation lawyers and industrial big shots, is to destroy the Wagner Act and collective bargaining. This is happening in the year 1945 when our unions are stronger than ever before in history.

Behind a feeble pretense of impartiality which couldn't fool a baby, this bill would:

- **Protect employers against supposed "unfair practices" by unions, while taking the guts out of the rights guaranteed to workers under the Wagner Act and by the Constitution.**
- **Wipe out NLRB and WLB and replace them with a Federal Labor Relations Board which is set up to strangle unions with endless proceedings winding up in compulsory arbitration of disputes arising from contract negotiations and grievances, and giving no guarantee of any security to the union.**
- **Remove the protection of the Norris-LaGuardia Act, thus throwing unions on the tender mercies of Federal Court injunctions.**
- **Make the closed shop (and perhaps maintenance of membership) illegal if the union is not chosen by 75% of the workers and the contract ratified by 60%. (51% is good enough to elect members of Congress.)**
- **Prohibit federal action in agricultural labor, government workers, employees of farmer cooperatives and other disputes, giving reactionary state laws the go-ahead signal.**

These are just a few of the highlights. The bill would also allow employers to tie unions up and break them financially in court suits if the employer decides a union is not following the rules and regulations set up by the bill to put it out of business. For example, certification of unions could be thrown into the courts. The bill has a special section designed to really enslave workers in industries producing essential supplies like food.

Our lawyers are working to dig out the rest of the details, but you can be dead sure of one thing without any further analysis: this is a bill to destroy your constitutional rights and produce the kind of "labor peace" Hitler had in Germany. That is what the New York Journal of Commerce was talking about when it headlined its story "Bill Due to Place US Labor Policy Upon New Basis."

Senator Burton says this monstrosity was the product of a "strictly non-partisan committee," the Committee to Promote Industrial Peace. The membership of this non-partisan committee reads like the roster of any "citizen's committee" set up by an employer to break an organizing drive or a strike. In fact, that is exactly what the Committee to Promote Industrial Peace is.

Here are some of the members and their connections:

George W. Alger, a corporation attorney who works for Sheffield Farms, part of the dairy trust, and writes amendments designed to kill labor and child labor laws in New York State.

Charles B. [illegible], another corporation lawyer of Boston, Mass. He contributed $500 to the Republican Party in 1944 for the campaign against Roosevelt.

Arthur Whiteside, president of Dunn & Bradstreet, Wall Street financial rating firm, president of the Wool Institute, etc.

Harold G. Evans, president of two insurance companies, the American Aviation Co., and vice-president of the Reading, Pa., Chamber of Commerce.

George Sjoselius, Asst. Attorney-General of Minnesota, enforcing the anti-labor Minnesota State Labor Relations Act—a friend of Sen. Ball. And many more, without a "non-partisan" name on the list, and that includes Donald Richberg, who split with the New Deal because he didn't like Section 7a of the NRA.

Attacks Wagner Act

Now it is doubtful if even the sponsors of this bill hope to pass it in its present form. It is too raw. A Republican like Sen. Wayne Morse of Oregon has already come out against it. So has William Leiserson, former chairman of the NLRB, who has a record which is hardly pro-labor. The Ball-Burton-Hatch concoction is the big barrage behind which its sponsors hope to attack the Wagner Act and all other legislation guaranteeing labor's rights by whatever means can be found to cripple them most effectively.

Labor should be absolutely clear about what the Wagner Act means. It is labor's bill of rights, and when we say this we don't mean that it is a substitute for powerfu and militant unions; it is a weapon to organize and strengthen unions. The Wagner Act wrote into the law of the land guarantees of labor's right to organize and made it our national policy to promote and assist collective bargaining. The Federal Industrial Relations Bill is an employer weapon to strip labor of its rights. Fight it and the aims behind it with all you have, and defend the Wagner Act.

Danger!

THE Ball-Burton-Hatch bill is the second major blow in a new national attack aimed at destroying labor unions. Under the pretense of "streamlining" labor relations, this bill would seriously undermine all of the gains made by labor under the New Deal.

All of organized labor—the CIO, AFL and Railroad Brotherhoods—are united in opposition to the bill.

Read this article carefully, and act promptly, loudly and effectively on it.

Union Fights Against Attacks On NLRB And WLB Protection

Washington, D. C.—Two more attempts by powerful citrus industry lobbyists to remove food-processing workers from the jurisdiction of the NLRB and WLB are being vigorously fought by FTA.

The citrus lobbyists, representing fruit and vegetable grower-shippers in California and Texas, succeeded on June 10 in attaching a rider to the War Labor Board appropriation in the House of Representatives which prohibits the use of WLB funds in cases involving "agricultural laborers." This would mean that at least one million workers in the food processing industry would not be able to have their dispute cases or Form 10's settled in the WLB. The rider must now be acted upon by the Senate. Locals have been urged to contact their Senators to vote against the rider.

At the same time, the citrus interests worked overtime to rob packingshed workers of the protection of the Wagner Act and the NLRB. Defeated in their attempts in the House to remove packingshed workers from NLRB jurisdiction, the citrus lobbyists turned to the Smith Committee to accomplish the same thing.

For a week in June, the Smith Committee held hearings on NLRB and WLB handling of FTA citrus cases in California and Texas. The shippers were represented by the notorious food lobbyist Ivan McDaniel, an attorney for grower-shippers in California, and by Austin Anson, Salinas shipper imported into Texas to attack FTA organization there.

NAIL DOWN LIES

Vigorously fighting back, FTA President Donald Henderson, Int. Vice-Pres. Dixie Tiller and West Coast attorney Aubrey Grossman appeared before the Smith Committee on June 19 to nail down the lies that had been dumped on the Committee by McDaniel.

Henderson told the Committee that this drive was the latest maneuver in the long campaign of the fruit and vegetable packing industry to have packingshed workers removed from the jurisdiction of all labor and social legislation. They succeeded in 1939 to rob packingshed workers of coverage under the Social Security Act, but Congress refused to amend either the NLRA or the Wage-Hour Act at that time.

The present hearings, Henderson stated, are aimed at reviving the campaign for amendment of the Act, and, in the meantime, so tying up NLRB procedure that packingshed workers will be immediately excluded from its protection.

HEART OF TEXAS

The anti-union campaign of the fruit and vegetable packers has one of its roots in the Texas Rio Grande Valley, where organized employer intimidation is being actively supported by fascist-front groups.

According to Chester J. Meske, former Regional Director for FTA in Texas, almost all employers in the Valley are represented by the Texas Citrus and Vegetable Growers and Shippers Association. Executive Manager of the Association is Austin E. Anson, who came from California where he helped to hire strike breakers in the Salinas strike of 1936.

Under Anson's organizational guidance, members of the Shippers Association pay $1.00 per carload shipped as membership dues into the Association. In return for the dues, the Association "handles and directs all labor relations for employer members."

"Whenever any employer desires to cooperate with a union," said Meske, "the Association prevents such cooperation by threatening to discontinue credit in banks, etc."

Gains Won At Campbell Soup

Camden, N. J.—Partial approval of Local 80's wage demands for Campbell Soup employees was granted by the War Labor Board on June 11.

Increases include a new progression schedule for women workers providing for the rate of 59c per hour to be paid at the end of the second week, and 63c after three months' employment.

The Board also ruled against the Company's "boy's classification" and ruled that all males, regardless of age, will be classified as men and receive a man's pay rate.

The Union's demand for a change in the vacation plan was approved by the Board, so that vacation pay will be based upon 4% of total earnings after three months' service, rather than straight-time weekly pay. This will mean a substantial increase in vacation pay.

INCENTIVE PLAN

In the Retort Department, the Board okayed an improved incentive plan. The Board also scheduled a hearing on June 29 to discuss the question of revising the incentive plan operating throughout the plant. Local 80 is asking the Company to pay 100% earned premium instead of the present 75%.

The Union's demand for a 3c general increase was turned down by the Board on the grounds that it was in excess of the Little Steel formula.

At the G. D. Ellis can plant, also under contract with Local 80, the War Labor Board approved a 5c increase for shippers, bringing their hourly rate to 85c. Vacations at the can plant were increased to 3 days for 6 months' service, and 2 weeks for 1 year.

Coast Gets Quick Response on NLRB

Los Angeles, Calif.—FTA locals in California and Arizona saw results from their lightning action on the NLRB appropriations riders when the news came through that the rider excluding fresh fruit and vegetable workers from the NLRB was defeated.

Every local was mobilized into action by an emergency call from the Regional Office. Telegrams poured into the offices of Congressmen by the hundreds. And in reply many locals received assurances of prompt action from their Representatives.

"I shall actively oppose the proposed amendments to the National Labor Relations Act," Rep. Helen Gahagan Douglas assured CWOC members in Lindsay-Porterville.

Local 7-2 Acts on NLRB Appropriation

Seattle, Wash.—In a letter to Representative Hugh DeLacy, Local 7-2 urged him to rouse the rest of Congress to defeat the riders attached to the NLRB appropriations bill.

The rider preventing the "expenditure of funds in any case involving the food processing industry, is particularly serious to us," the Local told him. "If passed, the entire food processing industry would be removed from the jurisdiction of the Wagner Act."

ROSE VACA

A Union Wedding

was given for two good members of FTA's Citrus Workers Organizing Committee, Doris Mohler and Albert Stockton (above) at the highly successful CWOC dance on May 18. The wedding took place during the 10:30 intermission, when the orchestra began playing the wedding march, and the crowd parted to make an aisle for the bride and groom.

Given by the Lindsay-Porterville (Calif.) branch of CWOC, the dance attracted more than 500 members, friends and servicemen. Music was furnished by George Garcia and his band.

The wedding, which was the highlight of the evening, was officiated by Reverend Hicks of Porterville. Ralph Hargrove, Int. Org., was the best man, and Rosie Hicks was bridesmaid. Congratulations over, everyone danced to "I Love You Truly." The bride is a Redlands girl and the groom a Lindsay man. The happy couple received several gifts from friends and immediately after the ceremony left for a short honeymoon.

Several old tunes were played by Clare Butler and Mr. Watson of Woodlake. The dance to them was a victory celebration, since their shed, the Woodlake Heights Packing Corp., had voted overwhelmingly in favor of FTA that day.

Pete Ferguson, Chairman of CWOC in this district, acted as master of ceremonies. The committee responsible for the huge success of the dance were Albert Stockton and Horace Preston, co-Chairmen; Harry Rasmussen, Secy.-Treas.; George and Ada Steer, Doris Preston, Leora Gibbs, Estrella Smithe, Lorena Jump, Lela Sellars, Georgia Ferguson, Francis Ferguson, Josephine Kemp, Pauline Olivos, and Ralph Hargrove.

Another CWOC celebrity is Rose Vaca (above, left), who was crowned "Orange Queen" at another dance given by the Redlands-Riverside CWOC in May.

By Lela Sellars, Reporter

Local 194 Has Answer To Campbell's Tactics

By Paul Gardner, Business Agent

Chicago, Ill.—Smarting under the Sixth Regional War Labor Board ruling in favor of Local 194, the Campbell Soup Co. has decided to delay the order by appeal unless the Union agrees to accept the wages offered by the company.

In return for a 3c general wage increase and increased vacation and holiday pay, the Company wants the Union to give up its demands for back pay; right to bargain on production standards; metropolitan rates for the can plant; full information on job descriptions, rate classification; the incentive system; accredited premium pay when a worker is transferred involuntarily; and all demands made to the Company on the new contract.

Refusing to fall for this wage gyp, Local 194 is willing to wait for the final Board decision and take the matter of the 3c an hour general increase and increased vacation and holiday pay to the WLB where it is now.

The Local will answer the Company's appeal before the National WLB but will not give back those gains made in the Directive Order so far. The Local mtaintains that the Board must order the increased vacation and holiday pay as the workers are entitled to these. It also maintains that it is entitled to the 3c general increase, since on three previous occasions the Company granted wage increases to the Camden plant without demanding concessions, and the Chicago Local sees no reason why it should make concessions in order to win this demand.

Pres. John Gallagher, Secy. Veronica Kryzan, Chief Steward Rudy Brncick and Bus. Agt. Paul Gardner called a special meeting of the Shop Stewards Council at which they discussed the Local's position. They are perfectly willing to allow the WLB to settle the present cases before it.

An organizing campaign was mapped out to block the Campbell Soup Co. in its efforts to stop wage increases and adequate labor standards. An enthusiastic group of Shop Stewards left with the determination to bring every worker in the plant into the fight and to make Campbell's in Chicago a 100% union plant.

FTA news

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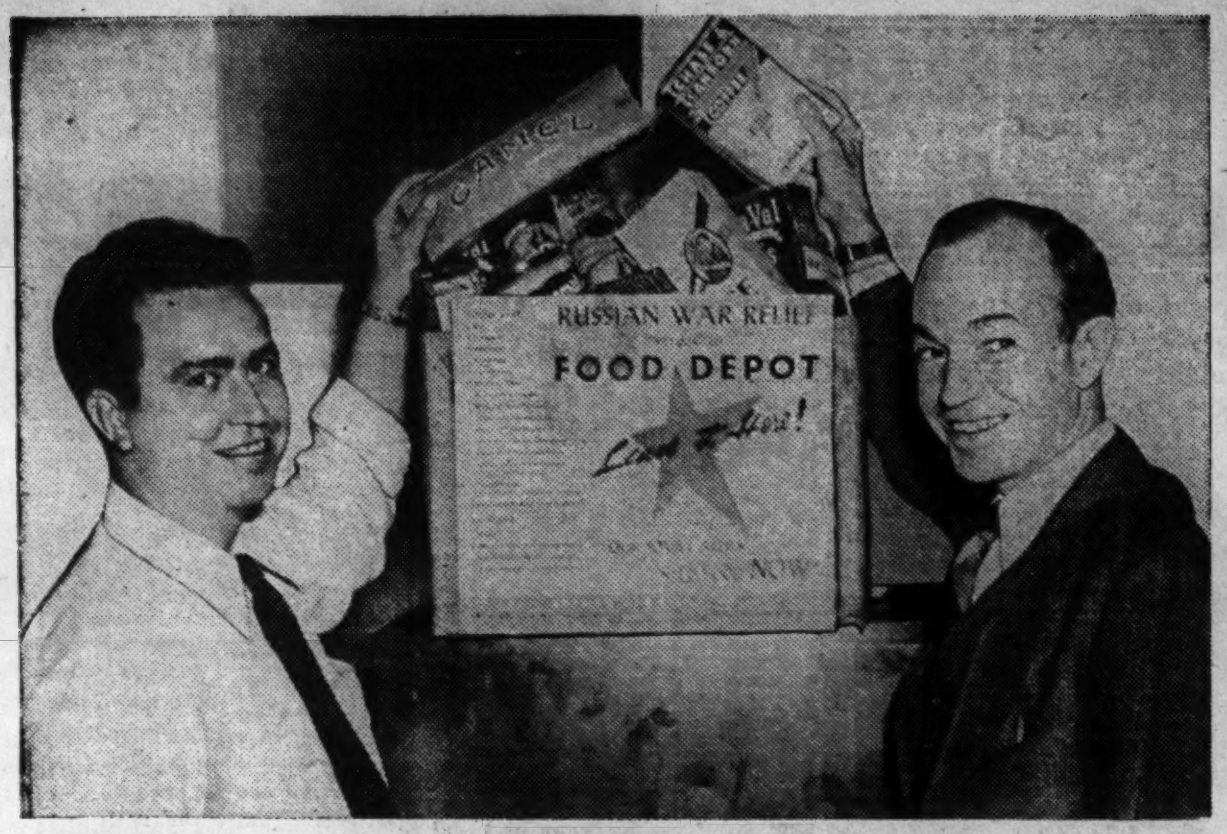


LAUNCHING FTA'S FOOD FOR RUSSIA DRIVE, General President Donald Henderson (right) and Secy.-Treas. Harold J. Lane (left) drop their contributions at the Food Depot set up in the International office. Both the Camels cigarettes and the Chase & Sanborn coffee which they are shown contributing are processed in FTA union plants. The footstuffs in the box were contributed by the workers in the International office. FTA is asking the locals to conduct the drive for food for Nazi-devastated Russia by bringing the Russian War Relief campaign to the membership, the plants and the communities. In the locals the goal is a pound of food and tobacco from every FTA member. In the communities, the locals are urged to interest storekeepers, churches and other organizations to start their campaign for food for Russia. *(Photo by Parker-Condax.)*

Win Pact At Gerber's After A Year's Fight

By Chapin K. Armstrong, International Organizer

Fremont, Mich.—True trade unionism won again when, after nearly a year of steady fighting, Local 30 signed a contract with the Gerber Products Co.

Until now, FTA represented only a small portion of the 1000 workers employed at the plant. Although the Company placed every obstacle in the way of the Union's efforts to enlarge the bargaining unit, Local 30 won out in the end by a vote of 5 to 1 when the NLRB ordered an election.

With the majority of the plant employees in the unit, Local 30 was able to negotiate a greatly improved contract, including good grievance procedure, improved seniority, and a better job evaluation plan. The rate range was increased 10c an hour over the existing minimum single rates. A new minimum wage clause established a minimum of 55c an hour for women and 62½c an hour for men. Overtime pay after 40 hours of work, and a 5c night shift differential were also included in the contract.

Time lost in settling grievances and negotiating contracts will be paid for by the Company.

VACATION PLAN

A vastly improved vacation plan was negotiated, under which a large percentage of the workers will enjoy vacation benefits for the first time. One week vacations were won for employees on the payroll for one year or more; and two week vacations for employees with 5 years of service. Three hours call-in pay will be paid for emergency work, as well as the usual 2 hour call-in pay for no work. Employees who are injured during the day will receive the full day's pay. Twice a day the workers will have 15-minute rest periods.

The results of the negotiations between the Company and Local 30 have been submitted to the WLB on a Form 10 for approval.

Maintenance of membership and check-off of dues, which was formerly ordered by the WLB, is in dispute. It has been placed before the Board, and the Union is confident that it will gain a continuation of this at a WLB hearing.

Michigan Locals Win New Gains

Traverse City, Mich.—"Things are really popping out Michigan way," International Organizer Chapin K. Armstrong informs us, reporting on the following gains made in the Michigan locals:

Local 58, Geilows Division, Detroit, Mich.:

WLB approved a 5c per hour night shift differential, and a 2-week vacation set-up for employees of 5 years standing.

Form 10's have been submitted for the same vacation set-up for the members of Local 58 at the Evergreen, Oakview, and Roseland cemeteries. Negotiations are under way at the Elmwood and Forest Lawn cemeteries.

Local 65, Morgan Division, Frankfort, Mich.:

WLB approved a 40-hour week plus time-and-a-half pay for 6 holidays, and double time on the 7th day of work.

Local 79, Bay City, Mich.:

WLB approved sick benefits up to 40 hours per year at the employees regular rate at [illegible] Canning Co. and Michigan Frosted Foods. It also approved a 5c per hour night shift differential.

Local 178, Cherry Grove Division, Traverse City, Mich.:

WLB approved overtime over 40 hours per week, subject to OPA approval.

Local 178, Morgan Division, Traverse City, Mich.:

WLB approved a 10-cent rate over and above the existing minimum rate classification, as well as overtime pay over 40 hours of work.

Members Go To School

By J. N. Billings, Reporter

Akron, Ohio—Local 120 has elected two leading members of the Local, Vice-Pres. Edward Baltzer and Chairman of the Entertainment Committee Joseph Schutt, as delegates to the FTA Midwestern Summer School, to be held the week of July 16 at Madison, Wisconsin.

However, Local 120 realizes that education in Union building must be made available to all. In conjunction with the FTA educational program, the Local is launching a program of its own for Shop Stewards and officers under the guidance of Regional Director Armando Valdes. Present plans are for this program to continue permanently to train leaders and future leaders, so that Local 120 will be assured of capable leadership, even though some of the Union leaders are replaced from year to year.

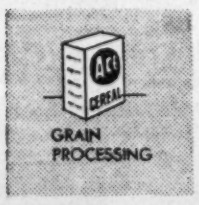
We know that our Union is here to stay. Our aim is for it to grow and prosper.

CHARTER MEMBERS of Local 120 are still active members of the Union. (Reading l. to r.): Matilda Bond, member of the Executive Board, sitting with her granddaughter; Charles Stockton; Albert Hensley, Chief Steward of Police and Watchmen, and his wife; Mrs. Ralph Weaver, wife of the Local Pres.; Glen Fox, an ex-Pres. of the Local, and Mrs. Fox; Sidney Bailey, an ex-Vice-Pres., and Mrs. Bailey.

Quaker Oats Local Asks For Wage Adjustments

By J. N. Billings, Reporter

Akron, Ohio—Demanding wage concessions to bring low-wage earners up nearer the top wage scale, Local 120 passed a resolution calling upon the Quaker Oats Co. to eliminate inter-plant inequities.



The resolution, unanimously adopted by the membership of the Local, authorized the Grievance Committee with the assistance of Regional Director Armando Valdes to contact the Company in an effort to negotiate wage adjustments, and if necessary to carry the demands to the War Labor Board.

The plan adopted calls for:

- Reduction in the present number of job classifications.
- A maximum of 9 wage brackets instead of the 33 now in effect.
- Raising the wages of low-wage earners to the top in each of the 9 wage brackets.
- Increasing the minimum hourly wage rate from 64c to 74c per hour.

Local 120 leaders have long recognized the necessity and justification for bringing the low-wage earners up nearer the top wage scale. They proposed the above plan, first of all, in justice to the under-paid workers, and secondly, for the future security and maintenance of the present top wage brackets.

With a new contract due in August, Local 120 has already begun negotiations with the Company on the newly proposed plan for wage adjustments.

LOCAL 120'S BOND SALESGIRLS: These lasses of Local 120 (reading l. to r.) Martha Hodnick, Lenore Crawford, Alice Kingan, Helen and Dorothy Chamberlain, have devoted much time and effort in the current 7th War Loan Drive, and in the planning of entertainment and recreation for the membership of the Local. In conjunction with the Akron CIO Industrial Union Council, the Local helped to sponsor a huge rally at the Rubber Bowl to spur the Drive.

Ask Community Support For WLB Wage Case

By Rebecca Stanfield, Reporter

Charleston, S. C.—"Pork chops and politics" are a major part of the agenda when Local 15 goes to work to win its just demands of the American Tobacco Co. in Charleston. Not only do the Union members write and wire their Congressmen to get the National War Labor Board to approve the Union's contract now before it, but they also get the rest of the community active in their behalf. By sending letters to businessmen and merchants of Charleston, by pointing out that higher wages for American Tobacco workers benefits them, Local 15 has been able to win the support of many businessmen in the community.

As a result of widespread support and the help of the Charleston Citizen's Political Action Committee, Local 15 received a telegram from Sen. Olin D. Johnston pledging his support to "do everything possible in my power" to contact the National WLB on the case. Support in the case was also pledged by Congressman L. Mendel Rivers.

For the first time in its history, the Charleston plant of the American Tobacco Co. agreed with the Union on the matter of relief operators.

The Company also agreed to increase the pay of box edgers. Wage increases agreed upon are subject to WLB approval and will supersede the Union's demands which are now before the National WLB. This agreement will mean 7c a hundred for size 1/20 boxes and 8c a hundred for size 1/10 boxes. Pay increases will be retroactive to December 15, 1944.

A campaign is now in full swing to keep the registration booth at the courthouse open in the evenings in order to allow the workers to register before elections. State Senator O. T. Wallace has promised to see the Chairman of Registrations to enlist his aid in making registration more convenient for the workers.

Mayor Wehman of Charleston has appointed Reuel Stanfield, Pres. of Local 15, to the Charleston Health Committee.

A dispute arising when the Company refused to pay the Negotiating Committee for time lost was submitted to arbitration and the case was decided in favor of the workers who received a day's pay.

Learning How the Red Cross works, this group of Local 64 members were taken on a tour of local Red Cross activities by the Motor Corps. Part of the labor-management committee in charge of the national war fund at the Van Camp Seafood Co. in San Diego, Calif., they are (left to right, above): Mrs. Ella Hasley, Shop Steward; Robert Galvan, Local 64 Secretary; Laura Hurst, 2nd Vice-Pres.; Joseph Martinez, Shop Steward; and Motor Corps Driver Mary Lou Root. Despite the fact that the fund drive took place in poor season and pay checks were low, Local 64 more than doubled last year's contribution to the Red Cross. (See picture at bottom of page.)

Win $100,000 In Lost Pay

By Pablo S. Valdez, Branch Agent

San Francisco, Calif.—1,400 members of Local 7 won $100,000 in lost wages in a 2 to 1 decision handed down by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals here on May 15. The money represents wages which Union members failed to receive when the employer groups refused to employ the men for the 8-week 1940 fishing season in Alaska waters and when they refused to renew a 1939 contract with the Union.

A Union's appeal to the Unemployment Compensation Commission of the Territory of Alaska, followed by an appeal to the Alaska District Court, were denied. The Union then placed the case before the United States Circuit Court which reversed the previous decisions and ruled that the workers were entitled to full unemployment benefits for that season, thus overriding the employers' claim that the complaint involved a "labor dispute on company premises."

The employer groups involved are the Alaska Packers Association, Alaska Salmon Company and the Red Salmon Canning Company.

In reaching this victorious decision, the Court laid down some important principles which are of benefit to all workers in regard to unemployment compensation.

All members who were refused employment by the Alaska Canners in 1940 should submit their names and addresses to the Union in order that the Union may proceed to collect their benefits for them.

Have you written that letter to your Congressman y e t ? See contest rules on Page 6.

Win Better Vacations at Van Camp

By Robert Galvan, Reporter

San Diego, Calif.—Recent WLB approval of improved vacations in the 1944 contract between Local 64 and the Van Camp Sea Food Co. has spurred the new Committee on to greater achievements for the new contract coming up.

Vacations of one week for 1800 hours worked per year were won for most of the male help. Seasonal employees with the plant for 5 years, who have worked over 600 hours per year and 95% of the time their department worked, won one-week vacations at base pay. In addition to vacations, the Company granted the check-off of initiation fees and the first month's dues.

NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE

Contract negotiations for 1945 will be getting under way in mid-July. Proposals for the contract have already been drawn up by the Negotiating Committee and approved by the membership. Serving on the Committee are: Secy. Robert Galvan; Syd Jackson, Maintenance Dept.; Charles Quintero, Warehouse Dept.; Alfred Smith, Floor Dept.; Edward Ruiz, Shop Steward of the Warehouse Dept.; and Ella Hasley, Shop Steward of the Packing Dept.

Local 64 has done a fine job in raising contributions for the Red Cross, War Chest and other war agencies.

GOOD REASONS

Rose Calamia of the Cleaning Dept. had four very good reasons for going all out for the Red Cross Drive. They are her four sons in the Navy: Marino, a coastguardsman, recently home on a 30-day leave; Carl, who has had 28 months of combat duty in the Philippines; and Tom and Leo, both hearty seamen.

Laura Hurst, 2nd Vice-Pres., has five sons in the armed forces. They are: Paul, warrant officer; Morse, army; Woodrow, army air forces; Frank, army; and Warren, now in Okinawa.

Andrea Sanchez, who was also active in the Red Cross Drive, has two sons in the service.

Local 64 mourns the death of Lucy Villa's husband, killed in action. Another casualty is the brother of Antonio Banuelos. The Local also mourns the recent deaths of Sisters Celsa Ornelas and Olive Lorden.

Negotiate 2nd Contract At American Tobbacco

Philadelphia, Pa.—While last year's demands before the War Labor Board are still awaiting decision, the workers of the American Tobacco Company here are already negotiating for a new contract. Their answer to the stiff Company opposition, which has prevented signing of a contract for more than a year, is "Build the Union!"

In a vigorous membership drive in the plant, 58 new members were signed up in May and June, and $314 was collected in back dues. Winners of the drive were Bernice Robertson (Domestic cigar dept.), Peg Kendig (Havana cigar dept.) and Barney Javitz (Havana packing dept.). For their excellent work in the drive they were awarded a trip to the one-week vacation training school sponsored by the FTA Education Department.

After several meetings with the Company, the Negotiating Committee has called in a conciliator to break the deadlock. Chief demands of the Union, which the Company opposes, are:

UNION DEMANDS

- An overall no-discrimination clause; a provision that wages be based on job content only, without discrimination because of race, color, creed or sex; and a modification of the seniority clause providing that the ratio of Negro workers to the total number of employees in the bargaining unit shall not be reduced.
- A 65c minimum wage and proportionate increases in all classifications.
- Automatic checkoff of dues.

The Union is awaiting the final order of the WLB on last year's case, which the Company has appealed. If the Company's appeal is denied by the Board, wage increases of from 1c to 5c per hour will be paid to employees, retroactive to May 5, 1944.

Local 22'ers Write To Congress

Winston-Salem, N. C.—"Folks down here have been writing letters to their Congressmen by the hundreds," writes Local 22 Educational Director, Eleanore Hoagland. Local 22 members are taking a very active part in the FTA Letter-writing contest, sponsored by FTA News.

Every two weeks the Local puts out PAC legislative sheet calling the attention of the membership to important legislative issues. An understanding of these urgent bills spurs the members to sit down and write their Congressmen and Senators. The most recent issues that have aroused a huge response are the threat to the OPA and the FEPC, as well as the NLRB appropriations rider that threatened to hamstring NLRB action in agricultural processing cases.

The best example of how PAC has fired the spirits of Local 22 members is that of Mrs. Mattie Liles. Mrs. Liles has been a member of the Local since August, 1943, when she came to work at the Piedmont Leaf House. She was so anxious about the fate of OPA and price control that she spent two full days going from house to house in her neighborhood getting the people to write letters on price control. Mrs. Liles is not the only member of Local 22 who has been encouraging her neighbors to write.

A few of the other members have even brought the issue of price control to their church meetings, asking the congregations to take action.

Labor-Management cooperation at the Van Camp Seafood Co. resulted in a contribution of $2,395.00 to the Red Cross—more than twice the size of last year's contribution. Shown above, delivering the dough to the Red Cross, are (left to right): Frank Meyer, auditor; Alfred Henderson, Director 1945 Red Cross drive for the San Diego area; Donald B. Smith, General Chairman of the 1945 Red Cross War Fund for San Diego area; Robert Galvan, Secretary of FTA Local 64, presenting the members' contribution of $1,395.00; and Glenn Copeland making the management's contribution of $1,000.00.

HEAR YE!

All members and officers of FTA are invited to contribute to this column of opinion on various topics of current labor and national interest. Drop us a line and tell us what you're thinking.

PAC and Vets

V. W. Sanders, a veteran of World War II and Chairman of the Political Action Committee of Local 2, tells the members of FTA how he feels about PAC:

What PAC means to me as a discharged veteran covers many phases of my adjustment to civilian life after I received my honorable discharge. After two years of fighting in the service, climaxed by several weeks in the hospital, where I was sewn together by highly skilled fingers, today no one would suspect that I had ever been the wreck that medical records will disclose.

I am thankful that I am in such fine physical condition. Yet, even though I felt satisfaction in being well again, I still felt very depressed. I went to the various veteran services (I belong to the two major veterans organizations which I believe every veteran should join), but was unable to throw off that worry that constantly upset my peace of mind.

AFTER LAST WAR

I knew what the real trouble was all along. You can understand better when I tell you that I am a veteran of the first World War, and vividly recall everything the veteran and the non-veteran suffered after that conflict was over.

I remembered hundreds of disabled men and their families starving. (Being a service officer for one of the veterans organizations for several years, I had first hand information.) I recall scenes of evictions from homes on farms and in the towns and cities.

What was bothering me was whether this would be repeated following this war. The veterans organizations could only partly help the veterans and their families through compensation and pensions. What I wanted was action toward a general prosperity for the nation as a whole—jobs for every able-bodied man. This will mean markets for the food produced on the farm, and it will mean sales for the goods produced in every plant.

LINE UP WITH PAC

I have looked deeply into every panacea offered us and none of them stack up with the program outlined by PAC. So it seems to me that every worker and every veteran should line up with PAC. We are opposed by men with millions of dollars who are greedy for profits produced by our sweat and brains. So let's stop and take stock of what we are doing to really benefit ourselves and our families. You will readily see that we must have money to fight a winning battle with PAC. So put your money to work—"Let your dollar be the minimum and your conscience be your guide." There is need for all who toil to get in and help PAC grow. That means you, Mr. Farmer, as well as all of us who work for a daily wage.

Poll Tax

Larry Larsen, FTA International Organizer in Charlotte, N. C. writes:

I would like to point out the importance to our membership of taking a definite stand on two important bills now up for consideration—the FEPC and the Anti-Poll Tax bills.

Our late President, Roosevelt, created the FEPC. And President Truman has told Congress that passage of the FEPC bill is essential to winning the war and to our nation's future.

Who are opposing these two bills? The notorious Rankin, Cox and Hoffman, and all the most reactionary elements in Congress. Which side are you on? Are you going to line up behind our President and the forward-looking people, or are you going to line up behind Rankin and Company? How long are we going to let this gigantic propaganda group split national unity and prevent the right of every man to work and help build a better America?

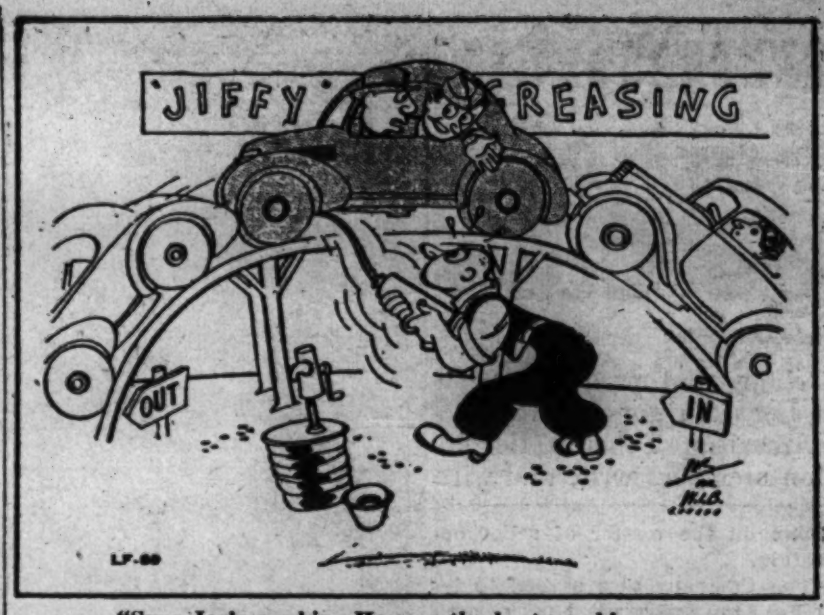
We have a duty to our nation and to those who gave their lives in the struggle to win freedom for all. We will rally to reinforce the forces that are leading the fight to win equal rights for all.

BACKBONE OF REACTION

Here in the South, there are no doors open for the Negro people to greater opportunity and a better life. Here is the backbone of reaction and here the Rankins, Cox's, and Martin Dies' have their stronghold. They are the enemies of the people and must be defeated at all costs.

To defeat the reactionary forces the Anti-Poll Tax Bill and the FEPC Bill must be passed. It is a test fight. We must flood Congress with telegrams and letters demanding the passage of these two bills.

The time has now come for all of us to realize that we are the champions of causes that are fought, not pleaded.



"Sure Joe's a whiz. He was the best machine gunner in our battalion."

Local 70 Hits $2258 In War Bond Sale

By Sally Sullivan, Reporter

Lima, Ohio—Local 70 employees at the Diesel-Wemmer-Gilbert cigar plant scored successfully in the 7th War Loan Drive by selling $2258 in war bonds.

$317 was contributed by the Local to the Red Cross drive in addition to the members' contributions of blood and bandages.

Another phase of war service activities in which the Local has participated has been the Canteen to which the members donated 35 dozen ice cream bars. Each time an employee leaves for the armed forces, the members at the plant take up a collection and present him with a war bond as a farewell gift.

Local 70, in pledging its support to Pres. Truman, urges every local to get busy on political action. We must write our Congressmen and Senators and let them know how we feel about things. Let's not forget our promise to our boys on the fronts. The only way we can secure jobs for these boys is through organized labor. Our unions must be kept strong.

Almost all of the 137 workers at the plant are organized. Local 70 hopes to hit that goal of 100% very soon. There are always a few who look for union benefits but are afraid to deposit that $1.50 per month.

New Local

280 South Range, Mich.—A new FTA local, Local 280, was formed in South Range, Michigan, and received a charter on May 23. Members of the local are employed as dairy workers at the Stella Cheese Co., where they make cheese, cream, whey products, etc.

Officers of Local 280 are: Sylvio Guisfredi, Pres.; Aladino Vettori, First Vice-Pres.; William Andrieni, Second Vice-Pres.; Ruby Vial, Fin. Secy.; Virginia Telin, Rec. Secy.; John Chiantel, Conductor; Frank Canova, Warden; and Ethel Coombe, Guido Raffaelli and Llewellyn Sheehan, Trustees.

A Contest FOR FTA MEMBERS

Are you a good Union member? One of the tests of a good unionist is knowing your politics—being aware of the political issues that affect labor and letting your Congressman know how you feel about those issues.

If you have already started writing letters to your Congressman, this contest is your meat! If not, why not start now?

WRITE A LETTER

CONTEST RULES:

1—This contest begins May 1, 1945, and ends midnight, July 31, 1945.

2—Write a letter to your Congressman, Senator, or any other government official.

3—Write about any one of the many issues which affect you as a worker and citizen. You may write about manpower legislation, Bretton Woods, OPA extension, the 65c minimum wage, or any other issue.

4—Send an extra copy of your letter to the Editor, FTA News, Room 418, 1505 Race St., Phila 2, Pa.

REMEMBER:

Your letter need not be an angry one. Good letters can also be written to good Congressmen.

Your letter will not be judged by its spelling and punctuation but by what it says. Say as much as you can, as briefly as you can.

Prizes!

Prizes will be awarded to the three best letters submitted. The winners will have a choice of any one of the following popular and stimulating books:

"The Cross and the Arrow" by Albert Maltz
"Freedom Road" by Howard Fast
"Deep River" by Henrietta Buckmaster
"People on Our Side" by Edgar Snow

Prize-winning letters and others which win honorable mention will be published in FTA News.

Clay-Bock Girls Organizing Klein's

By Lucy Aiello, Local 56 Pres.

Trenton, N. J.—Local 56 is busily engaged in organizing the Emil Klein cigar plant here in Trenton. Decked out with signs and placards, the Organizing Committee has been giving out leaflets at the plant every week and has been holding meetings. Most active members of the Committee are Florence Mercantini, Lucy Aiello, and Agnes Astorino.

The last time leaflets were given out, we found the police standing around to keep us company. When we told the plant manager, Pasternak, that we didn't need to have police protection, he denied knowing anything about it. Then he said that his girls needed protection.

Local 56 is now negotiating a first contract with Henry Clay & Bock Co.

Local 297 Choses School Delegate

By Dan Smith, Reporter

Toledo, Ohio—Norton Ackerman was chosen as a delegate to the FTA summer school in Madison, Wis., July 16.

A Family Night Party has been planned by the Local for July 5, following the membership meeting. Ice cream and cake will be served.

All employees will take their vacations with pay the third and fourth week in July as the Woolson Spice plant will close down due to a labor shortage. Employees who do not rate the full 2-week vacation will have work so that they will not lose their earnings.

Notes from the Locals

Raises at Royal Feed

19 Memphis, Tenn.—Local 19 members employed at the Royal Feed and Milling Co. were awarded a 4½c general wage increase retroactive to October 1, 1944, as the result of a Form 10 approved by the WLB.

The workers also won vacations of 2 weeks for 5 years' work, and one-week vacations for one year of work. They will receive 3 paid holidays, and 5 holidays at time-and-a-half pay if worked.

PAC Delegates

56 Trenton, N. J.—Florence Mercantini, Local 56 Vice-Pres., was elected a vice-chairman of the Mercer County Political Action Committee at the Committee's second annual convention on May 20.

Sister Mercantini and Local 56 Pres. Lucy Aiello were delegates to the convention from the Henry Clay and Bock cigar Local.

By Lucy Aiello, Pres.

New Officers

178 Traverse City, Mich.—The following are the newly elected officers of Local 178: George DeGroat, Pres.; Gladys Bellows, Vice-Pres.; Mildred Piette, Recording Secy.; O. D. Carpenter, Fin. Secy.; Perry Garner, Sgt.-at-Arms; Louis Engstrom, Door Guard; and Alvin Braden, Perry Garner, and Mildred Piette, Trustees.

By George DeGroat, Pres.

Setting Records

297 Toledo, Ohio—Members of Local 297 employed at the Woolson Spice Co., exceeded their goal in the 7th War Loan Drive by fulfilling 135% of their quota.

A plan to cut down absenteeism has been working very successfully. Every 90 days, the employees who are not absent for that period receive an award from the management. At the end of the first trial period, 24% of the workers qualified. This plan is to be continued with the awards increasing in value.

Local 297 extends its sympathy to Brothers Earl and Frank Hart on the loss of their wife and mother.

More members of the Local than ever before are planting Victory Gardens. And, judging from the tall tales that are going the rounds, there will be plenty of roasting ears and sweet potatoes for all.

By Dan Smith, Reporter

Negotiating Raises

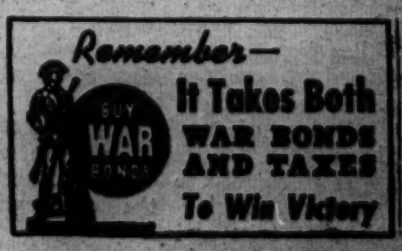
232 Helena, Ark.—Local 232 is in the process of negotiating a 15c raise at both the Helena Cotton Compress and the Helena Cotton Oil Mill.

A big fish fry has been planned by the Local for July 4th for the purpose of bringing in new members. Pres. Willie Curtis and Fin. Secy. George Shaw will be the speakers.

By George Shaw, Fin. Secy.

Officers Elected

356 Lockport, N. Y.—Newly elected officers for Local 356 are: Max Grabuski, Pres.; Dan DeNario, Vice-Pres.; Earl Murray, Treas.; and Sam DeNardo, Rec. Secy.



Praise For Locals' Good Standing

Philadelphia, Pa.—"Our International Union has an exceptionally fine record as far as Local Unions in good standing are concerned," wrote Int. Secy.-Treas. Harold J. Lane in a letter on June 22, congratulating the Financial Secretaries of Local Unions for their fine work.

Lane's letter pointed out that 85 Locals are paid to date, 24 Locals owe 1 month, 11 Locals owe 2 months, or a total of 120 Locals in good standing, in accordance with the International constitution. Two Locals are in bad standing, and 1 Local has just been chartered.

All Locals were urged to bring their payments up to date.

West Coast Locals To Hold Conference

Los Angeles, Calif.—All California and Arizona locals and organizing committees in the citrus areas will meet here at a Regional Conference on July 7 and 8.

Special guests at the conference will be Int. Secy.-Treas. Harold J. Lane, and Mervyn Rathborne, California CIO Secy. A program for the next six-month period will be mapped out and voted on at the conference.

Plans are being made to follow the conference with an institute for union representatives where organization, negotiations, NLRB and WLB procedures will be discussed. Among the experts invited to participate in the Institute are Paul Pinsky, California CIO Research Director, and Dr. Sanford Goldner, head of the Los Angeles Research Office.

Organizing Drive Set in Evansville

By Roberta Montgomery, Int. Rep.

Evansville, Ind.—The FTA campaign to organize food and tobacco workers here in Evansville got off to a good start with two successful department meetings following a leaflet distribution at the Fendrich Cigar Co. Organizing Committee was set up in the plant for the day shift.

Unstinting support has been pledged in the drive by the Evansville CIO Industrial Union Council. With the Evansville CIO unions and membership behind the drive, the organizing campaign is now establishing contacts within the various food and cigar plants, numbering about 1500 workers. FTA organizers Roberta Montgomery and Ruth Bennett are in charge of the drive.

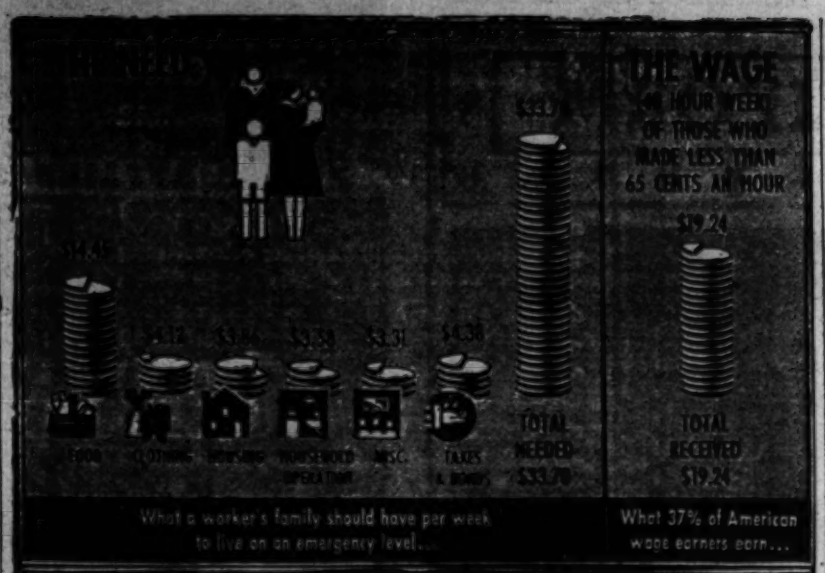
Hunt Workers Go to Industry Courses

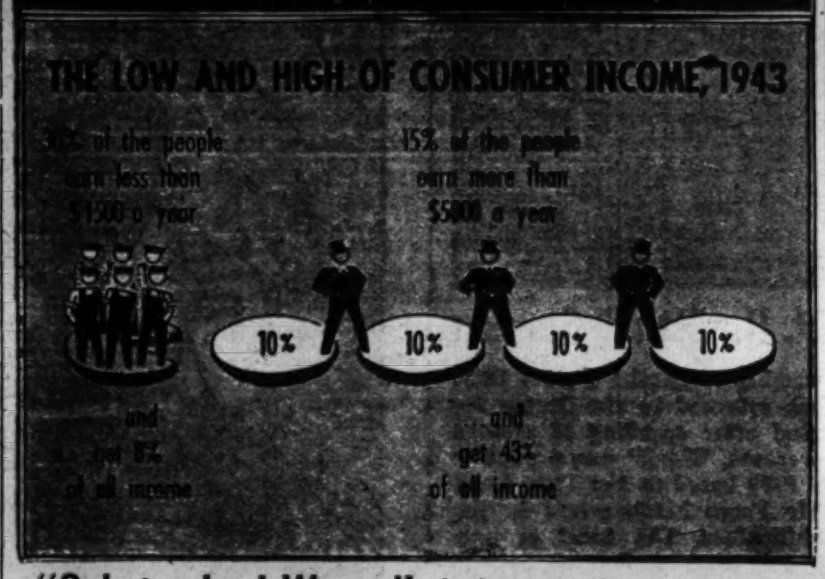
By Pat Verble, Business Agent

Fullerton, Calif.—Eleven Shop Stewards and Board members of Local 2 attended the War Manpower Commission's Training Within Industry courses at the Hunt Brothers Packing Co. Everyone felt that the classes were very valuable and regretted that they could not be longer. The members who attended the classes resolved that they would use what they had learned to build the Union in the plant and, at the same time, build better labor-management relations.

Those who attended were Robert Harrington, Pres. of Local 2; Shop Stewards Felisa Echanis, Bob Simpson, Carmen Lamas, Mable Carter, Grant W. Jacobs and Vic Sanders; Executive Board members Theron Kirk, George Thein, Catherine Noutary, Clement Chassie; and Business Agent Pat Verble. The Union feels that the Company is to be complimented on having this training in their plant.

The employees at Hunt Brother oversubscribed their 7th War Loan quota at the beginning of the Drive, so they have doubled their quota and it looks as though they will make it with flying colors.




THE LOW AND HIGH OF CONSUMER INCOME, 1943
37% of the people earn less than $1500 a year
15% of the people earn more than $5000 a year
10%
10%
10%
10%
and get 8% of all income
and get 43% of all income

"Substandard Wages" is the name of a new pamphlet issued by the CIO which tells in story, pictures and cold hard facts about how widespread low wages are throughout the country and about the CIO's fight for a 65c minimum wage. Featured in this pamphlet are the two FTA members who testified in favor of Senator Pepper's 65c Minimum Resolution before a Senate Committee last November, Ruth Decker of Local 32, Elwood, Ind., and Christine Gardner of Local 22, Winston-Salem, N. C. The pamphlet can be ordered at 15c per copy from the CIO, 718 Jackson Place, Washington 6, D. C.

FEPC Fight Reaches Climax in Congress

Washington, D. C.—The fate of Pres. Roosevelt's Fair Employment Practices Committee hangs in the balance as the News goes to press. In the event that neither the House nor the Senate votes funds to continue the wartime agency, FEPC will cease to exist as of June 30.

However, whether funds for FEPC are appropriated or not, there still remains a fight of utmost importance in the House and in the Senate to establish a permanent FEPC. In the House, it is important to get 218 Congressmen to sign a Discharge Petition to report out of the Rules Committee the Norton FEPC Bill (H.R. 2232) which would establish a permanent FEPC. In the Senate, similar proposals for a permanent FEPC are incorporated in S. 101.

No high-powered lobby in Washington can defeat FEPC if the folks in FTA send in postcards, letters and wires telling their Senators to vote for S. 101 without amendment, and telling their Congressmen to vote for H.R. 2232. There should be a flood of such communications not only from Local Unions, but also from individual Union members, their friends, their families, and community organizations.

Pres. Truman, in a letter to the House Rules Committee, urged the Committee to report out the Norton Bill, saying: "Discrimination in the matter of employment against properly qualified persons because of their race, creed or color is not only un-American in nature, but will lead eventually to industrial strife and unrest. It has a tendency to create substandard conditions of living. The principle and policy of Fair Employment Practice should be established permanently as part of our national life . . ."

In a wire to Pres. Truman, General Pres. Donald Henderson, speaking in behalf of "our Union with tens of thousands of Negroes, Spanish-speaking Americans and other racial minorities . . .," supported his demands for a permanent FEPC and urged the "continuance of a policy of non-discrimination in industry."

Murray to Speak On Radio July 7

Washington, D. C.—CIO Pres. Philip Murray will make an important nation-wide broadcast on Saturday, July 7, at 10.45 p. m., EWT over the Columbia Broadcasting System's network. He will speak on the need for a new wage policy during the present reconversion period. Locals who desire a recording of Pres. Murray's speech may request it from the CIO Publicity Dept.

A new series of CIO radio broadcasts will be initiated on Sunday, July 8 at 1.15 pm., EWT, and every Sunday over the NBC network. The program series, called "America United" will deal with important issues concerning labor and the public.

"How to Maintain Employment" is the topic for the July 8 broadcast, with UAW Pres. R. J. Thomas, and industry and government representatives participating.

The subject for the second broadcast on July 15 will be the Guaranteed Annual Wage.

Every CIO member should check to see that his local NBC station is carrying this important CIO radio series.

Labor's Angle On The News

WAGES: Washington, D. C.—Relaxation of the hold-the-line order on wages and abolishment of the Little Steel Formula were urged by CIO Pres. Philip Murray and AFL Pres. William Green when they called on Pres. Harry S. Truman June 6. They proposed that organized labor be permitted to resume collective bargaining with employers in relation to wages.

Murray said he "talked again with Mr. Truman about reconversion, full employment and the wage situation. I asked for an upward revision of the Little Steel Formula and also asked that labor organizations be permitted to engage in free collective bargaining with employers in relation to wages."

Both Murray and Green asked for a 20% increase in wages as necessary to make up for the loss of overtime and to maintain a high national income.

The executive officers and vice-presidents of the CIO, meeting in Washington the following week, sharply demanded passage of Truman's emergency social security program and the revision of the national wage policy.

They called upon Pres. Truman, War Mobilizer Fred Vinson, Economic Stabilizer William H. Davis, the War Production Board, the National War Labor Board and Congress to:

- Enact emergency legislation putting into effect the unemployment compensation plan requested by Pres. Truman.
- Revise the national wage policy and give authority to the WLB to grant wage adjustments as may be necessary and which will not substantially affect the cost of living in order to aid the war effort, eliminate substandard wages, and to assure a high level of purchasing power.
- Assure resumption of production of civilian goods in those plants where cancellations and cutbacks of war contracts have occurred.

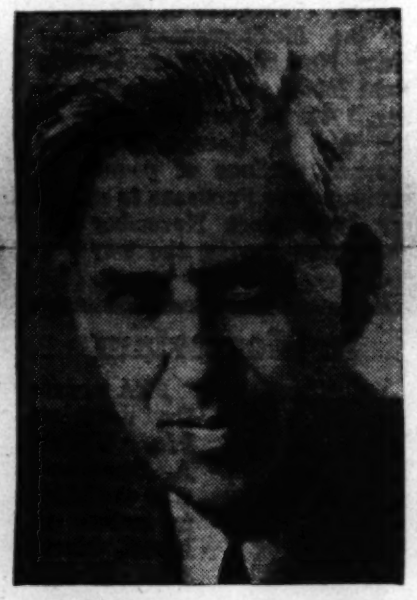
U. S.—U. S. S. R.: New York, N. Y. — *U. S. responsibility in preventing a third world war and her common interest with the Soviet Union in raising the living standards of all peoples were stressed here by Secy. of Commerce Henry A. Wallace.*

"No nation ever had such an opportunity to help the world toward peace and abundance as the U. S. has right now," said Wallace in a speech before the New York Foreign Trade Week Committee. "On the other hand," he continued, "we can, by making the wrong decisions, place such a strain on the other nations of the world as to make World War III inevitable."

The U. S. and the U. S. S. R. have emerged "as the two most powerful nations in the world," *Wallace said the same evening in a speech before the New School for Social Research. "Both in their different ways are groping for a way of life which will enable the common man everywhere in the world to get the most good out of modern technology."*

He said that those who say that the U. S. and Russia cannot find common ground for their aims and purposes "are looking for war, and that, in my opinion, is criminal."

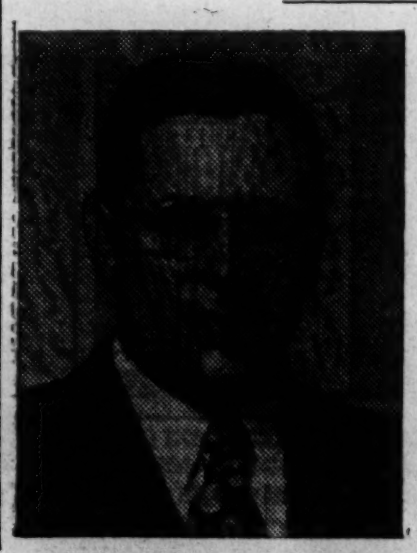
"Both of us believe in the maximum use of technology and both of us believe in peace. Both of us want to see the so-called backward nations industrialized so that the standard of living may be more uniform over the entire world."



BRIDGES: Washington, D. C.—A gallant 7 year fight against heavy odds and powerful enemies was won by Harry Bridges June 18 when the U. S. Supreme Court reversed the order for his deportation to Australia.

Bridges, President of the CIO International Longshoremens and Warehousemens Union, has been fighting in the courts since 1938 against deportation to his native Australia. He was charged with being a member of the Communist Party, and, as such, an advocate of force and violence.

In freeing Bridges of the charges against him, the Supreme Court dealt a blow to those who hated Bridges for his union organizational activities.



Citizen's PAC: New York, N. Y. — *Elmer A. Benson, former governor of Minnesota, has been named acting chairman of the National Citizens Political Action Committee.*

"We have an important task ahead of us," Mr. Benson said in accepting his new post. "We must mobilize the people of America for progressive political action. In order to maintain progressive government, the people must realize that voting is not a quadrenniel affair limited to presidential elections. The people have a stake in the local and state elections and most certainly in the congressional elections."

UNION MEN IN UNIFORM

Leif A. Dahl, FTA Int. Rep. on leave with the Army Air Forces, has been promoted to captain, the Union has been informed by the Army Public Relations Office in the Mediterranean theater.

Captain Dahl is now an Information and Education officer with the 51st Troop Carrier Wing headquarters. While with FTA, he organized on the East Coast, and helped to build up Local 186 when it was still in its young and struggling days.

The 51st Troop Carrier Wing participated in all the major paradrops, re-supply missions and air evacuation of casualties in the Mediterranean theater since November, 1942. Captain Dahl joined the outfit in February, 1943. In the final phase of the war in Europe, the 51st dropped millions of pounds of equipment to Partisans in northern Italy since November 22, 1944, thus paving the way for V-E day.

Pvt. "Chuck" Feller

recently paid the California-Arizona Regional Office a visit. As a Representative of Local 78 he was always on the receiving end of gripes. Now he finds that griping is the most popular sport in the Army.

Lt. H. "Hank" Storeno

member of Local 7-2 since 1939, has returned to the States for good after spending 17 months overseas. "Hank" was a pilot of a P-38 based at the 13th Army Air Force headquarters in the Philippines. The Local is very proud of him, for he is the holder of the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters as well as the Purple Heart.

The citation to Lieutenant Storeno's Purple Heart stated that he received wounds while participating in action near Alamino, Luzon, in the Philippines, on March 16, 1945. In part, his citation read: "In the course of Storeno's operations, strafing and bombing attacks were made from dangerously low altitudes. These operations included escorting bombers and transport aircraft, interception and attack missions and patrol and reconnaissance flights."

Formerly a cook at the National Fruit Canning Co., Brother Storeno was always a staunch Union member. He is now on a 30-day leave after which he will report for reassignment.

"Hank" is 23 years old and earned his wings the hard way. While in the South Pacific, he flew with the famous "Vampires" squadron, second highest scoring unit of the 13th AAF.

James A. Stives,

S 2/c, former organizer for FTA on the West Coast, is now serving "somewhere in the Pacific."

In Memoriam

FTA mourns the death of Pfc. William A. Sweatland, who was killed in action on Luzon, March 17. Brother Sweatland was a charter member of Local 68. He served as Vice-President of the Local and was a Vice-President of the Michigan CIO Council when he entered the service. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Mrs. Gladys Sweatland.

SERVICEMEN:

When your military address changes, please notify FTA News immediately, so that you can continue to receive the paper.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, INC.

CIO

VETERAN'S GUIDE

CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

World War II Veteran returning to civilian life with a hundred questions filling his mind as to his rights and how to use them, will find a ready answer in the 64-page pocket-size CIO Veteran's Guide. FTA News has sent copies of the Guide to FTA members in service who are on the FTA News mailing list. Any local desiring to send the Guide to its members in the service should send the serviceman's name, serial number, and address to the News, requesting that a copy of the Veteran's Guide be sent to him.

Mail Call

Lost a Leader

"OUR Union lost a true and loyal Union leader in Bill Sweatland," writes **S 1/c Robert Wirsing, former Local 68 officer, who is now doing stateside duty for the Coast Guard.** "Bill Sweatland is the second member of Local 68 to make the supreme sacrifice for our country.

"The passing of our beloved President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, left us all grief-stricken. The tributes paid to him serve as testimony to his greatness and his determination to better the lot of all mankind.

"I just want to say that I believe the Fifth National Convention held last December was the best I ever attended. I liked the full participation of the delegates on discussion of matters from the floor.

"Now that we have eliminated two-thirds of our Axis enemies, I am sure that FTA will continue to fight for a speedy victory over Japan and a lasting peace. FTA can be proud of its no-strike pledge and its record of production.

"Please send information about the Midwest Summer School FTA is holding in Madison, Wis. It sounds very interesting.

"On to a stronger Union and a better world with FTA."

Postwar Job

"FTA has been very faithful in sending the News to me for the past two years and I want you to know I appreciate it," writes **S 2/c Myles Martyn, Local 155 member,** from "somewhere in the South Atlantic."

"The Union members are to be congratulated on the vital part they are taking in the war effort.

"I have a personal problem about the postwar. Before the war my job only provided me with a few months' work a year, since we only handled tomatoes. I am in the upper age brackets and it is going to be difficult to find year-'round employment to keep my family secure. I wonder if a job could be obtained somewhere where I can have steady work, even if it means moving to another state."

Gives Courage

"I SURE do appreciate receiving copies of the News," writes **Stm 1/c Jacob Clady, a former officer of Local 19 and an International Alternate Vice-Pres.-on leave.**

"I am always proud to hear from you all back home. Reading about the good work that is being done gives me the courage to go forward with my job out here 'somewhere in the Pacific.'"

Johnnie Jones
by Don Rico
HI, BOSS! I'VE GOT SOME HOT INFORMATION FOR YOU!
JUMBO RACES TO THE LITTLE MAN'S PLACE TO GIVE HIM THE DOPE ON JOHNNIE'S SHIP—
COME HERE, YOU APE! I'VE GOT SOME HOT INFORMATION FOR YOU!
COPPERS!
BRILLIANT, JUMBO! YOU LED THEM RIGHT TO ME!
OKAY, YOU GUYS--- OPEN UP! THIS IS THE F.B.I.!
THE F.B.I.! ALL RIGHT! WE QUIT!
FEDERATED PRESS
SMART OF YOU TO GIVE UP!
SMARTER THAN YOU THINK, G-MAN!
I KNOW YOU PLANTED JOHNNIE JONES IN MY JOINT TO GET THE GOODS ON ME--BUT I'M ONE STEP AHEAD OF YOU----
THAT PUNK IS LOCKED UP NICE AND TIGHT--- AND IF I'M NOT FREE IN AN HOUR, HE'S GOIN' TO BE KNOCKED OFF! GET IT?
MEANWHILE---
--I FEEL BETTER NOW-- THINK I'LL GO OUT TO THE DINING ROOM!
TAKE IT EASY, JOHNNIE!